



MLA Citation Guide

This guide contains citation examples for frequently cited source types. Examples are adapted from the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, 2016. Refer to the handbook to view additional examples, find explanations of in-text documentation, and study other characteristics of MLA style. **There are copies on reserve at the Library front desk.**

This guide is not a substitute for reading and understanding the *MLA Handbook*, nor is it a substitute for what your instructor requires. You can also find the guide online in Research & Writing Help on the JSCC Library webpage (<http://library.jsc.edu>).

General guideline:

Author Last Name, Author First Name. "Title of Source." *Title of Container*, Other Contributors

(such as editors), version (such as edition number), number (such as volume number),

Publisher, publication date (as specific as possible), location (page range or URL for

Internet sources).

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

Note: If the source is a smaller work inside of a bigger work, such as an article in a journal, follow the above format, where the article is “title of source” and the journal is “title of container.” If the source is a big work, such as a book, the source functions as both the “title of source” and “title of container.” Put the title in italics and put a period after it. Always pay special attention to the punctuation needed. Each entry is formatted as a hanging indent.

Books

Book by a single author:

McKenna, Paul. *Schizophrenia and Other Disorders*. Routledge, 2007.

Note: This is the basic MLA works cited entry. Include the author’s name (last, first), followed by the title of the book (in italics), the name of the publisher, and the year of publication. The publication information is on the title page of the book. The medium such as print or web, and the city of publication, which were both required in previous editions of MLA, are no longer needed in the 8th edition. Also, MLA now only uses italics for titles of large works such as books, whereas in previous editions it has allowed the use of underlining.

Book by a single editor:

Richardson, George, editor. *Machine Scoring of Student Essays*. 2nd ed., Utah State UP, 2006.

Note: "UP" is the abbreviation for "University Press" and "ed." is the abbreviation for "edition."

Book by two or three authors:

Blocker, Clyde E., Robert H. Plummer, and Richard C. Richardson, Jr. *The Two-Year College: A Social Synthesis*. Prentice, 1999.

Note: The arrangement of the authors' names in the example: *Last, First, First Last, and First Last*.

Book by more than one editor:

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and John Ehrenreich, editors. *The American Health Empire: Power, Profits and Politics*. Vintage, 2008.

Note: Common terms in a works cited entry like “editor,” “edited by,” “translator,” and “review of” are not abbreviated in the 8th edition of MLA.

Book by more than three authors:

Quirk, Randolph, et al. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. Longman, 1985.

Note: "et al" means "and others."

Book by a corporate author:

American Medical Association. *The American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine*.

Edited by Charles B. Clayman, Random, 2008.

Work in a textbook that contains many different works:

Eliot, T. S. "The Love Song of I. Alfred Prufrock." *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*,

edited by Nina Baym, 7th ed., Norton, 2007, pp. 1577-80.

Note: When small works, such as a short story or journal article, reside inside a bigger work, such as a textbook or a journal, the bigger work is referred to as the container. In some cases there may be two containers, such as when an article in a journal was found in a database (the journal would be the first container and the database would be the second container). A container should always be followed by a comma. In the example above, because the entry includes the work's title (in quotations) followed by the container (title of the book that contains the work, given in italics). Also, when citing a work such as a short story in a larger collection, a page range for where the short story is located in the book is given at the end. Use "p." if it is a single page and use "pp." if it is a page range.

Encyclopedia article:

Trainen, Isaac N., et al. "Religious Directives in Medical Ethics." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, edited

by Warren T. Reich, vol. 4, Free, 1978, pp. 398-402.

Scholarly article from a journal with only an issue number:

Robertson, Paul. "The Journey of the Fledgling: A Study of Herons Along the Florida Coast."

Southeastern Review of Ornithology, no. 42, 2008, pp. 1-24.

Note: 42 is the issue number.

Scholarly article from a journal with both a volume and issue number:

Cameron, Lindsay. "Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the World Sixty Years Later." *Virginia Quarterly*

Review, vol. 81, no. 4, 15 Jan. 2005, pp. 275-78.

Note: The article is 81 and the issue number is 4. Also, MLA 8th edition requires that the dates in your works cited list are given as fully as they are provided in your sources. If your source provides a month, day, and year, use the example above for formatting.

Newspaper article:

Lollar, Michael. "Beale Fest Is Roots-Strong." *Commercial Appeal* [Memphis], 19 Mar. 2010, p.

A1.

Note: A is the section number; 1 is the page number. Newspapers are typically arranged by sections. For newspapers not published nationally, you must give the city of publication in square brackets if it is not already included in the title.

Magazine article:

Ali, Loraine. "Cashing in on a Legend." *Time*, 20 Mar. 2013, p. 70.

Anonymous article in a magazine:

"What Is Going On?" *Popular Science*, Apr. 2008, pp. 70-72.

Electronic Books and Electronic Databases

Electronic book (ebook):

Windley, Phil. *Digital Identity*. E-book, O'Reilly, 2005.

Scholarly article accessed in an electronic database:

Luman, Elizabeth T. "Maternal Characteristics Associated with Vaccination of Young Children."

Pediatrics, vol. 111, no. 5, May 2010, pp. 1215-18. *Academic Search Elite*,

doi:10.1038/pedia1170.

Note: The rule for this entry is similar to a journal article found in print. When accessing a work online, the location where you found it (the URL) is given at the very end. The above example has two containers: the title of the journal that contains the article (*Pediatrics*) and the name of the database that contains the journal (*Academic Search Elite*). Finally, notice that the URL begins with "doi." If available, use the DOI link because this link will not change if the URL does.

Controversial issue article with anonymous author accessed in an electronic database:

"By the Numbers: Performance-Enhancing Substances." *Issues & Controversies*, 24 June 2005.

Infobase, <http://icof.infobaselearning.com/support-materials/by-the-numbers/p/by-the-numbers-performance-enhancing-substances.aspx?sr=1&tab=1&ID=5868>

Note: This article only appears in this website's database, not a journal. Therefore, it has no volume or issue number.

Newspaper article accessed in an electronic database:

Liswood, Laura A. "Gender Politics and the Oval Office; Why Don't Women Run for

President?" *Baltimore Sun*, 31 Mar. 2001, p. A23. *LexisNexis Academic*,

<http://www.lexisnexus.com/hottopics/lnacademic/>

Note: The URL provided for this entry, as opposed to previous examples, is a general link that will not take the person directly to the article. (*LexisNexis Academic* does not provide individual URLs for searched articles.) MLA 8th edition states, "If the URL leads to a source that is behind a paywall or defunct by the time you submit or publish your work, then retrieving becomes difficult or even impossible, but readers may still glean information from the URL that helps them understand the path of your research." Therefore, provide the best URL possible, and the rest of the information you provided in your works-cited entry will help your readers find the source.

Magazine article accessed in an electronic database:

Dudley, Steven. "War in Columbia's Oil Fields." *Business Week*, 5 Aug. 2008, p. 15.

MasterFILE Premier, <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/>

[pdfviewer?vid=3&sid=32656d77-1461-490c-aa6c-6d33428a172b%40sessionmgr4007](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&sid=32656d77-1461-490c-aa6c-6d33428a172b%40sessionmgr4007)

Internet sources

Newspaper or magazine article on the web with an author or authors:

Lee-St. John, Jeninne. "Postnuptial Depression: What Happens the Day After?" *Time*,

24 Nov. 2008, <http://content.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1861028,00.html>

Newspaper or magazine article on the web (anonymous):

"Schools Hope to Teach Pushy Parents a Lesson." *Washington Post*, 22 Aug. 2013,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2000/08/22/schools-hope-to-teach-pushy-parents-a-lesson/550835c6-cd5c-47ed-b7aa-778c7a05cee7/>

Entire web site:

The MLA Style Center. Modern Language Association, 1961-2017, <https://style.mla.org/>

Note: The title of the website (in this case, *The MLA Style Center*) and the name of the website's sponsor or publisher (Modern Language Association) may be somewhat different. When this is the case, both must be included, with the website in italics and the name of the organization listed after. Also, if the information is available, provide the date range for how long the website has held its copyright (in this case, from 1961 to 2017).

Web page with author:

Johnson, Douglas. "An Account of Events in Salem." *CNN*, 25 Oct. 2002,

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/21/us/account-of-salem-events/index.html>

Web page with no author:

"Harness the Rain." *Organic Gardening*, 2009, <http://www.organicgardening.com/blog/harness-the-rain.htm>

Web page with corporate author:

"Avian Influenza: The Virus and Its Spread." *Center for Disease Control*, 19 Aug. 2009,

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-in-birds.htm>

Note: When a work is written by a corporate author (in this case, Center for Disease Control), the corporate author is often also the publisher. When this is the case, skip the author part and start with the title of the work and list it only as the publisher. However, like in the above example, sometimes the corporate author and publisher can also be the name of the website itself, and when this is the case, only include the name of the website (in italics) and do not include the name of the organization in the author or publisher field.

Web page with no date given:

"Rethink your Life." *American Society of Psychologists*, <http://www2.apa.org/monitor/2010/07-08/soe.aspx>

Note: The MLA 8th edition states that when information is missing (in this case, the date), do not include a placeholder for the unknown information.

Personal site:

Lancashire, Ian. *Ian Lancashire*, 2017, <http://ianlancashire.com/>

Note: In this case, the author of the website and the name of the website are the same person.

Email:

Ungar, Jay. "Re: The New Song." Received by Molly Mason, 14 Sept. 2013.

Note: The subject line of the email is considered the title and placed within quotation marks.

Miscellaneous Sources

Post in an online forum:

EdgarBopp. "Time is a Flat Circle." *Reddit*, 12 Oct. 2017, https://www.reddit.com/r/funny/comments/75xzli/time_is_a_flat_circle/

Note: The author is the username of the creator of the post.

Twitter:

@tombrokaw (Tom Brokaw). "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign." *Twitter*, 22 Jan. 2013, 3:06 a.m., <https://twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/160996868971704320?lang=en>

Note: The author field will contain the username, and you can choose to put the user's full name in parentheses right after it. Put the entire tweet exactly as it appears in quotation marks in place of a title. Because tweets provide an exact time, also include that information right after the date.

Youtube:

Shimabukuro, Jake. "Ukulele Weeps by Jake Shimabukuru." *Youtube*, uploaded by cromulantman. 23 Apr. 2006, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puSkP3uym5k>

Recorded song:

Rice, Damien. "Cannonball." *O*, 14th Floor, 1 Feb. 2002. *Spotify*, <https://open.spotify.com/album/3ADELRoZ4I8WLE7clLU7La>

Note: The name of the musician is placed first, and the song title is put in quotes, the album title is in italics, followed by the record label, the date the album was released, the container of the album, and finally the URL where the song can be found online.

Interview:

Johnson, Evan. Interview. By Greg Neff. 14 Feb. 2009.

Note: The name of the person being interviewed goes first. The person doing the interview goes after the word "Interview," like in the example above.